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SCHOOL
AND
FINANCIAL REPORTS

OF

HANCOCK, N. H.,

Rendered March, 1869.



PETERBORO':

TRANSCRIPT OFFICE, - - FARNUM & SCOTT, PROPRIETORS.
1869.

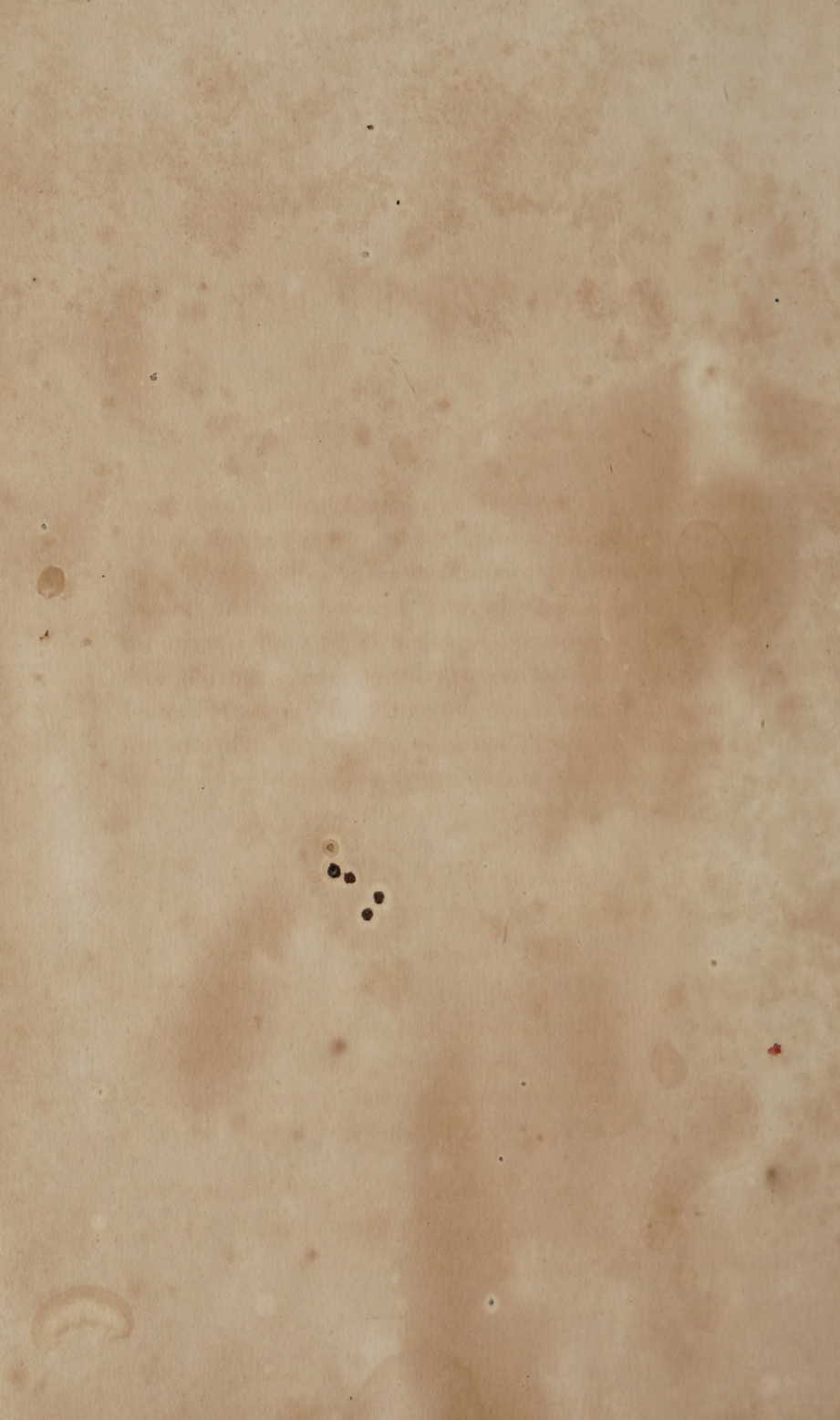
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SCHOOL REPORT.

FELLOW CITIZENS: Having had the honor of superintending your schools for another year, it again becomes our duty to communicate with you in relation to them, and we hereby present you the following carefully prepared report. If, in your judgment, the points discussed are worthy of your attention, and the conclusions reached correct, it is earnestly hoped the coming year will witness a general effort to improve the schools and raise the standard of popular education in Hancock.

District No. 1.

Summer Term—Miss N. B. HOLT, Lyndeboro',
teacher.

The opinion of pupils and parents was that Miss Holt taught a good school, and without any reservation we cheerfully endorse the opinion. Having had much experience in teaching, and being a thorough scholar, she was ready at all times and a good worker.

Winter Term—Miss E. D. PUTNAM, Wilton, teacher.

Miss Putnam's qualifications combined experience, scholarship and courage, and she entered cheerily up-

on her labors. We visited the school early and gave her and the scholars the best advice we could. Saw no reason why the school might not be a good one, if the large scholars remained obedient. Hearing some unfavorable reports of the school, we thought it best not to depend upon hearsay ; so, in company with the agent, Dr. R. G. Mather, we visited the school again. This was some four or five weeks before its close. At this time the discipline was fair, and several classes gave abundant evidence of good instruction and industry. The teacher appeared to be trying to do her best. The closing examination confirmed the good impression made at our second visit. As a whole, the school appeared as well as on any former examination. Two advanced classes in arithmetic, Adams' and Greenleaf's National, are deserving of special praise. There was a large class in algebra, which went through, and much to their own and the teacher's credit, were very thorough indeed.

This favorable report from No. 1, will perhaps surprise some who have depended for their information upon the stories put in circulation by a few disorderly and ill-bred boys. So far as these boys were concerned we have no doubt the stories were true enough. But from what little we have seen and know, the misconduct was nothing the teacher could help, and it would not be right to blame her for sins which lie at our own doors.

District No. 2.

Summer Term—Miss L. A. SYMONDS, Hancock,
teacher.

This school has won for itself a very fair record for good behavior, habits of industry and scholarship, and

we are happy to say is still deserving of its fame.

Winter Term—Miss L. M. CHANDLER, Henniker,
teacher.

This school has become one of the smallest in town, as to numbers, but contains several fine scholars, well advanced. The past term was very pleasant and profitable. The teacher was uncommonly popular with pupils and parents, and we think deservedly so. The classes, as usual, appeared well on examination day; and we would mention that we found here the largest and best class in Natural Philosophy in town. This is a very useful study, and one with which all should become acquainted before leaving school.

District No. 3.

Summer Term—Miss H. M. BARKER, Hancock, teacher.

This was Miss Barker's second term in the place, and although satisfactory in the first instance, several months at the high school together with her former experience enabled her to do much better than before. Miss Barker was faithfully devoted to her business, and bids fair to become one of our best teachers.

Winter Term—Miss M. R. WILDER, Peterboro',
teacher.

This was Miss Wilder's second winter term here, and she fully sustained her former reputation as a thorough scholar and successful teacher. We can cheerfully recommend her to any of our committee men in town.

District No. 4.

A single term, Miss D. M. WILDER, Stoddard, teacher. This was Miss Wilder's second winter term in this place, and she has uniformly given entire satisfaction. But No. 4, at the present time, is deserving of more than a passing notice. This school is winning for itself distinction, and ought to have the credit of it. The past term has been a long one, and most thoroughly improved. In point of good behavior, and actual progress made in their studies, this is the "banner district." The class in geography far exceeded our expectations, going through, and being very thorough in every part. We can say the same of the class in Colburn's arithmetic. There is not a problem in the book which the class cannot solve.

The school room has been recently well furnished with black boards, and the class in Adams' arithmetic—most or all of them beginners—went to Percentage. On examination day, every parent in the district was present, and by the interest they took in the exercises, appeared to enjoy the occasion very much.

District No. 5.

Summer Term—Miss E. F. ROBERTSON, Greenfield, teacher.

This was Miss R's first attempt at teaching, and to her credit we would say, she has done well for the district, and possesses in a good degree, all the necessary qualities for a successful teacher. Under her management the summer term was a profitable one. As an evidence that Miss Robertson's success was ap-

preciated by the district, she was hired to teach the winter term. Owing to neglect—or some other cause—the committee was not notified of the commencement of this term, and we did not visit the school as early as we should; but when we did so, the discipline was excellent, and the scholars appeared to be making good progress in their studies. We were only informed of the close of this term by receiving a letter from the teacher, several days afterwards, regretting our absence, but presuming it was on account of a press of business at home. We would say to the teacher and all others concerned, *that we never neglect our duties to the schools.*

District No. 6.

Summer Term—Mrs. WILLIS WASHBURN, Hancock, teacher.

Mrs. Washburn has taught more or less in town for a series of years, and has been a faithful and industrious teacher. On the present occasion she fully sustained her former character for efficiency, the school appearing finely at both our visits, and the scholars making good progress in their studies.

The winter term was taught by the same lady, and with more than her usual success. This school when all together is not large, but is under good discipline, and is rapidly advancing to the front rank of scholarship. On examination day, most of the parents were present, thereby encouraging teacher and pupils to do their best. The classes in arithmetic and geography exhibited well, and in reading we think they are fully equal to the best in town. In this branch there has been great improvement made within the year.

District No. 7.

Summer Term—Miss E. M. NAHOR, Peterboro',
teacher.

We might particularize with the classes, but we will sum them all up in one word and say it was a good school.

Winter Term—Miss —— TENNEY, Marlow, teacher.

Miss Tenney is a fine scholar and a good teacher, and we were expecting an uncommonly favorable report from No. 7. Sickness has prevented these hopes from being realized, and we understand she is still too unwell to resume her school. We assure her of our sympathy in her misfortune, and hope she may soon regain her health.

District No. 8.

Summer Term—Mrs. H. FOGG, Hancock, teacher.

Mrs. Fogg's connection with No. 8, was in the highest degree satisfactory. Parents and scholars agree in the opinion that she is an excellent teacher. Being well qualified, she was always very ready and willing to assist her pupils, and by her pleasant and agreeable manners, won the good wishes of all. The school passed a good examination, and we agree in the general verdict: "well done thou good and faithful servant."

Winter Term—Miss E. F. KNIGHT, Hancock, teacher.

Miss Knight is an experienced teacher and has taught several terms in this town with marked success. On the strength of her former reputation we congratulated the agent and the school upon their good fortune in securing the services of one so well

qualified for the place. But in the present instance, we are sorry to say that our expectations were hardly realized. She seemed to be suffering from great nervous irritability, which unfitted her for the exercise of that patience and forbearance which we regard as indispensable in the successful management of the young. Of course, under the circumstances, we do not *blame* her for a lack of these qualities; on the contrary, we sympathize with her strongly, well knowing, as we do, that there are times in the school room, when any ordinary stock of patience may be exhausted. But it would be well for all teachers to understand this bit of philosophy. We have got to take the world as it is, and not as we *would* have it, and he who would improve mankind, must expect to do so by dwelling upon their virtues, and not by magnifying their defects. We do not believe any child was ever benefited by scolding and fretting; but, by judicious commendation, we can secure his good will, and having made sure of that, his moral and intellectual improvement under our instruction is certain.

Several scholars left the school before its close, which gave it a rather thin appearance on examination day. We think this is wrong, and parents should never allow it, except in cases of actual necessity. With all these unfavorable circumstances attending our school in No. 8, you may suppose it was pretty much a failure. We do not so consider it. There have been many worse schools, and less creditable examinations than this. There is a goodly number of advanced scholars here, who have done themselves, their teacher and school, no little credit. We were particularly gratified with the examination of the

class in geography. Miss Dow and Miss Pearsons gave an illustration of their skill in Guyot's new method of "constructive map drawing," which was far ahead of anything of the kind in town. The classes in arithmetic are all deserving of mention. Those in algebra and astronomy were not examined at great length for want of time, but each appeared to have a good understanding of the ground gone over.

District No. 9.

Summer Term—Miss J. M. NESMITH, Antrim, teacher.

Miss Nesmith is a lady of very good qualifications, and her school in this district was one of rare excellence.

Winter Term—Miss LIZZIE C. FULLER, Hancock, teacher.

Miss Fuller passed quite a fair examination in the common branches, and with commendable ambition entered upon her new and untried labors. We visited her twice before the close of the school, giving her and the scholars a kindly word of encouragement, and wishing them success.

We were not present at the examination, being in Nashua to attend an educational meeting, so Miss Lizzie and the people of No. 9 must excuse us from any further remarks at present.

REMARKS.

Our school ship being now in port, the present is a proper time for looking her over and making any re-

pairs that may be needed in hull or rigging. We would say that that duty has been attended to, and we find a considerable portion of one side of the hull, down near the keel, very rotten and leaky. This defect is so extensive that it will require full three months to fit the old ship for her summer voyage. But lest some "land lubber" may not understand this marine language, we will drop the metaphor, and speak in the language of dollars and cents.

Of the thousand dollars which we annually spend for schooling in Hancock, two hundred and fifty, at least, is lost from tardiness and irregular attendance. It will be seen by reference to the table accompanying this report, that this loss is very unequally divided. While No. 4 has lost but a few cents, No. 1 has lost about *seventy dollars*. What do you suppose this district would say if their agent, the Doctor, or Mr. Nelson, the collector, should actually *cheat* them out of \$70.00? Wouldn't they make Hancock too hot a place for the Doctor and the Collector to winter in? When the superintendent, in the discharge of his legal duty, has seen fit to swap off a few old books for some new ones—which every one with half an eye in his head ought to know are worth double—so keenly have some of our good people felt the loss of the few shillings which the exchange involved, that they have been ready to vote the superintendent and all his books a nuisance. This is mentioned, not in any spirit of unkindness, but merely to show that the general indifference which is felt in regard to this annual loss of one-fourth of our schooling is not because the people do not appreciate their money. But perhaps some will say, "our children are frequently sick, and

can't attend school all the time," or, "the schools are so poor now-a-days that the children can't learn anything." Our schools, poor as they are, have some *very smart boys* in them; and many of these cases of "sickness" and "poor schools," are tricks by which "Young America" "comes it" on his teacher and his over-indulgent father and mother. Well, says one, "how shall we know when they are really sick, and when not?" We will just whisper in your ears a test for each of these cases. If the patient is not so *very* sick but he is good for a "time" with his skates, his coasting sled, or a game of croquet with the girls, we think you will run no risk in sending him back to the school house.

To meet the other case, we would recommend a short spelling exercise. Select a few such words as these: Excellences—qualities of things; excellencies—titles; doctrine—points of law or religion; doctoring—medical aid. If he makes no blunders in spelling these words, try him on his grammar. See if he uses set for sit, or done for did. See if he says git red, where he should say get rid. If he fails on any of these, or similar tests, we think, for his own future good, as well as his father's credit, he should be sent back to school and made to mind.

At this point we propose to say a word upon the discipline of our schools. You are all aware that a school *may* appear very well on a few set days when the committee or other visitors are present, and at other times be as disorderly as chaos itself. We have been considering the matter, and two remedies have occurred to us, either of which, we think, would cure the evil. In case you think it advisable to employ a

female teacher in winter, the district might adopt a code of "By-Laws" on school government, which, if you would be careful to see enforced, would answer the purpose. Another plan, which some would prefer, is to hire a first class male teacher for the winter term; being careful, of course, to give him a cordial support. In either case it wouldn't be a bad plan for the district to adopt the "By-Laws."

We would again exhort our committee men to be extremely careful who they hire for teachers. Hire early in the season, and in no case accept one without you are well assured of his qualifications, both as to books and capacity for government.

Now a single suggestion as to what the children should study. As a rule, we say they should study that which they will most need to practice when they become men and women. At present, there is much more time spent on arithmetic than there is any need of, and not half enough on several branches quite as useful. Full half the school time from twelve years of age to twenty, is spent upon arithmetic. And if the parent wishes to do a little extra for his children, and sends them two or three terms to some academy, half or two-thirds of this time is spent upon algebra. Six to nine months is time enough for arithmetic—as much as its importance demands. And as to algebra, its practical value is about equal to a large cargo of ice in the arctic regions. Understand me. Algebra has an appropriate place in a course of mathematics, and as such, is well enough. But to the farmer, mechanic, or tradesman, a knowledge of natural philosophy, chemistry, physiology or drawing would be far more valuable.

Houses and Furniture.

With a single exception, our school houses are in good repair. No. 4 is deserving of a better house. Although better than it looks, the house very much needs repairing inside and out. We hope they will do it.

Our school rooms are well furnished with blackboards; but in wall maps, clocks, thermometers, globes, books of reference, &c., we are poor enough. No. 2 has a series of outline maps, which are of some consequence; No. 8 has a clock, and No. 5 has Webster's Unabridged Dictionary. This is the sum total of all our school furniture. We presume the schools have been provided with maps, but they are all gone, or so far behind the times as to be worse than useless. As to the school furniture, some may say we can get along without it. So we can. But most people think they need some sort of a timepiece in their kitchens, and would feel lost without one. So the farmer and mechanic may get along without many very convenient and useful tools, but the general opinion is that such a policy is not good economy. I suppose it would cost about \$250 to furnish our nine school houses decently. In our opinion the money would be as well invested as that the town has in the Peterboro' Savings Bank.

Change of Text Books.

We have made, or *attempted* to make, an exchange of our old geographies for Guyot's. The improvements claimed for the new, as compared with any in use heretofore, are that the maps are engraved and colored *physically*, as well as politically, and present a

new and improved method of map drawing. In the opinion of your committee, these improvements are of sufficient importance to warrant the change. These geographies have been introduced into the schools of Manchester and Concord, and quite extensively by the cities and towns about us. As far as we are informed, they are giving good satisfaction everywhere except in Hancock. There has been considerable opposition to them here, particularly in No. 2 and No. 9. The other districts, as far as we know, have quietly acquiesced in the change, but we presume there is a general feeling that the superintendent acted injudiciously.

In conclusion, permit us to return our sincere thanks for the many kindly greetings we have received in our intercourse with parents, teachers and pupils. We have discharged our duties toward you faithfully and conscientiously. In the future, whether as scholars, or as citizens of our great and glorious Republic, nothing can afford us greater pleasure than to know that you are deserving and enjoying a large share of the comforts and blessings of life. And we hope you will remember, too, that most of the comforts and blessings of life come through intelligence; intelligence through good schools, and good schools only through a generous support.

Again returning our thanks to all, we respectfully announce our desire to be relieved from the place we have held for the past three years, as superintendent of the schools of Hancock.

C. A. WHITAKER,

School Committee of Hancock.

School Statistics.

Districts.	Length in weeks.		Wages per mo. includ'g board.		Whole number of scholars.		Average attendance for the year.	No. not attending school anywhere.	Whole No. scholars in town.
	First Term.	Second Term.	Summer Term.	Winter Term.	First Term.	Second Term.			
1	10	13	\$28 00	\$34 00	33	37	25		45
2	8	10	20 00	29 00	12	17	12		17
3	8	10	18 00	24 00	17	24	18		24
4		16		19 33				1	10
5	8	8	22 00	24 00	8	9	8		9
6	6	9	16 00	24 00	8	14	12 $\frac{1}{2}$		10
7	8	10	16 00	23 00	9	15	10 $\frac{1}{2}$		16
8	7	10	20 00	28 00	22	16	14		16
9	6	8	20 00	18 00	15	9	8 $\frac{1}{2}$		15

TREASURER'S REPORT.

A. D. TUTTLE, Town Treasurer, in account with the town of
Hancock.

DEBTOR.

To cash in treasury at the close of last settlement,	\$413 82
" " received of Collector Emerson for 1867,	118 47
" " " County for County paupers,	22 75
" " " State Treas., Savings Bank tax, 1868,	383 87
" " " " " Railroad tax, 1868,	138 33
" " " " " Literary Fund, 1868,	35 28
" " " Treasurer of Gilsum, for pauper,	34 21
" " " Avery M. Clark, principal on note,	200 00
" " " " " interest " "	10 00
" " " County for paupers,	85 58
" " " Oren Nelson, Collector for 1868,	4365 21
" " " R. Emerson, " " 1866,	7 20
" " " Librarian for fines,	1 61
" " " Town of Peterboro', principal on note,	600 00
" " " " " interest " "	36 00
" " " Collector of Milford, Bank Tax, 1867,	7 40
" " " " " " " 1868,	7 80
" " " J. H. Hood, use of Town Hall,	4 00
	\$6471 53

CREDIT.

By cash paid to the several School Districts, which sum includes the Literary Fund for 1868, and a balance of the Dog Tax money for 1867.

Dist. No. 1.	R. G. Mather, Prudential Committee,	\$216 64
" 2.	Wm. F. Symonds, " "	95 76
" 3.	Owen A. Willey, " "	99 98
" 4.	David Hunt, " "	66 26
" 5.	Joseph Knight, " "	92 17
" 6.	G. I. Hayward, " "	80 02
" 7.	Alfred J. Tenney, " "	86 06
" 8.	X. W. Brooks, " "	106 62
" 9.	S. C. Murdough, " "	32 06
" 10,—	in Dublin, " "	11 09
" 5.	School House tax,	20 00
" 7.	" " "	12 65
		<hr/>
		\$919 41

Paid for support of Poor.

Wm. P. Hall, board of Joel Hall,	\$11 00
O. Nelson, coffin for " "	7 00
J. Barney, grave " " "	3 50
A. H. Taft, medical attendance for Joel Hall,	1 25
John A. Snow, for Ward Ware and wife 6 months,	100 00
" " " medicine for Ward Ware and wife,	2 50
Josiah Dodge, board of Mrs. Gassett,	4 00
George L. Curtis, goods for Asa Hart,	5 53
W. T. Donnell, medical attendance on Asa Hart,	16 25
H. W. Clyde, for Ward Ware and wife 6 months,	100 00
A. H. Taft, medical attendance on Abbie Crouch,	26 75
" " " " Eliza Powers,	21 00
Mrs. M. H. Priest, for Catharine Howard,	52 00
Lewis W. Alcock, for Mrs. Gassett,	45 00
A. C. Blood, goods for Guillow family,	4 92
" " " " Oscar Hall,	1 69
" " " " Twiss Family,	8 65
Charles Hayward, for Oscar Hall,	105 50
David T. Ware, for Lydia Russell,	104 00
Mrs. E. Thayer, for Lorena Hills,	75 00
A. D. Tuttle, goods for Guillow Family,	14 05
" " " " Oscar Hall,	88
" " " " Twiss family,	6 90
" " " " Emery Rice,	1 91
Henry Tuttle, wood for Twiss family,	5 00
A. H. Taft, medical attendance for Mrs. Guillow,	24 00
" " " " Twiss family,	28 00
O. Eaton, Overseer of the Poor,	11 00

\$787 28

Paid for Roads and Bridges.

Ephraim Tyrrel, work on highway,	\$7 00
A. M. Clark, " " "	3 50
O. A. Willey, lumber for bridge,	7 10
B. W. Hardy, repairing bridge,	49 00
B. Colby, " "	6 15
R. B. Symonds, railing for bridge,	1 50
J. D. Mathews, bridge plank,	3 87
G. Barney, " "	3 25
W. Sawyer, work on highway,	1 50
G. D. May, work and plank for bridge,	82
Wm. Dennis, work on Dennis bridge,	1 00
Josiah Stone, work and plank for Dennis bridge,	13 20
Asa Washburn, repairing bridge,	2 50
C. P. Parkhurst, plank for bridge,	4 25
Warren Stearns, plank for bridge,	1 82
I. Farrington, county bridge,	1 95
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	\$108 41
Non-resident highway tax,	\$32 59

Paid Town Officers' Bills.

Jefferson Barney, Sexton,	\$9 30
C. A. Whitaker, S. S. Committee,	47 95
Avery M. Clark,	33 00
Orland Eaton,	34 50
William F. Symonds,) Selectmen,	36 00
A. D. Tuttle, Treasurer,	20 00
" " " Librarian,	25 00
" " " Town Clerk,	19 30
Oren Nelson, Collector,	50 00
Auditor's bill,	2 00
	<hr/>
	\$277 05

Paid Miscellaneous Bills.

Farnum & Scott, printing town reports, 1868,	\$28 00
Z. W. Brooks, painting and lettering guide boards,	5 00
G. H. Tilden & Co, repairing library books,	13 75
Farnum & Scott, printing reward posters,	1 50
E. C. Eastman & Co., record book,	4 75
Z. W. Brooks, painting and lettering guide boards,	2 50
C. M. Sheldon, damage by bad road,	1 30
A. M. Clark, blank books and stationery,	8 70
" " " for G. Y. Sawyer's written opinion,	3 00
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	68 50

Amount brought forward,	\$68 50
A. M. Clark, journey and expense to Concord,	6 15
Orland Eaton, stationery,	1 10
J. H. Wood, for town hall,	3 24
	<hr/>
	\$78 99

Paid Interest on Note.

John Colony, interest on note,	\$300 00
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Money Loaned.

Paid Wm. Robinson and took note,	\$200 00
“ John J. Barker, and took note,	1000 00
Paid State Treasurer, State tax,	\$1862 50
“ County Treasurer, County tax,	636 91
Abatement of taxes for 1866,	\$7 20
“ “ 1867,	43 39
John H. Felch, sheep killed by dogs,	\$6 50

Recapitulation.

Money received by Treasurer,	\$6471 53
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MONEY PAID OUT BY TREASURER:

Paid the several school districts,	\$919 41
Support of the poor,	787 28
Roads and bridges,	108 41
Non-resident highway tax,	32 59
Town officers' bills,	277 05
Miscellaneous bills,	78 99
Interest on note,	300 00
Money loaned,	1200 00
State tax,	\$1862 50
County tax,	636 91
Abatement of taxes for 1866,	7 20
“ “ 1867,	43 39
Damage occasioned by dogs,	6 50—\$6260 23

We, the undersigned, have examined the foregoing accounts, and find them correctly cast and duly vouched, and find a balance in the treasurer's hands of two hundred and eleven dollars and thirty cents.

JOSEPH DAVIS, }
EBENEZER WARE, } Auditors.

Hancock, Feb. 24, 1869.

REPORT OF OVERSEERS OF POOR.

Number of Paupers supported by the town for the past year,	5
Number assisted,	1
Cost of supporting the town paupers as per treasurer's report,	\$536 73
One County pauper supported,	52 00
One since Sept. 15, 1868,	34 62
Paupers chargeable to Gilsum and Deering,	118 27
Aid to County paupers during the year,	45 66

There will be due Horace W. Clyde, May 3, 1869, for support of Ward Ware and wife, \$100 00—one hundred dollars having been paid.

During the year one of our town paupers has become a County charge.

ORLAND EATON, }
WILLIAM F. SYMONDS, } Overseers of
the Poor.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1, 1869.

Outstanding Claims against the Town, March 1, 1869.

Cheshire Mills note,	\$5000 00
Interest on said note,	134 16
Due Horace W. Clyde for support of Ward Ware and wife,	100 00
Unappropriated Dog tax,	20 00
	\$5254 16

Assets of the Town.

Notes held against the town of Peterboro',	\$3000 00
Interest on said notes,	413 25
John J. Barker's note,	1000 00
Interest on said note,	1 67
William Robinson's note,	200 00
Interest on said note,	11 40
Money in treasury,	211 30
Due from Gilsum, aid of Guillo family,	35 53
Due from Deering, aid for Twiss family,	48 55
Due from County for County paupers,	23 54
In Collector Emerson's hands for 1866,	20 80
“ “ “ “ 1867,	2 98
“ “ Nelson's “ “ 1868,	31 28
In Collector's hands, of Peterboro', for 1867,	272 67
“ “ “ “ 1868,	297 04
	\$5570 01
Assets over debt,	\$315 85

Respectfully submitted,

AVERY M. CLARK, ORLAND EATON, WILLIAM F. SYMONDS,	}	Selectmen of Hancock.
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Plastic Slate

FOR

ROOFING AND OTHER PURPOSES.

The process of reconstructing Slate Stone from a disintegrated state was patented February 21st, 1865. It is a combination of

Pulverized Slate and Viscous Matter,

and is a development of one of the simple but unalterable tendencies of nature.

As a Roofing material, it stands unrivalled. It adapts itself to every shape and slope. Non-combustible, impervious, non-expansive and undecaying.

Frost does not crack nor heat dissolve it. The only Roofing material ever discovered that will resist the action of the elements as long as the structure it protects. It is unequalled as a coating for railroad and farm buildings, fences, bridges, bottoms of vessels, vaults, &c.

IMPORTANT LEGAL TESTIMONY

REFERRING TO PLASTIC SLATE.

Last June, a case arose in a District Court in the State of Indiana, which required legal testimony concerning the nature of Plastic Slate and its qualities as a roofing material. A commissioner was chosen by the parties in the City of New York, before whom the depositions were taken, and I now present a part of two of them for your consideration.

Prof. Charles S. Stone's Testimony.

My name is Charles S. Stone. I reside in New York City. I am professor of chemistry and Physics at the Cooper Union in this city.

Question. For what reason do you ascribe to this material (Plastic Slate) its good qualities for roofing and other purposes?

Answer. Its good qualities as a roofing material are due: first, to its imperviousness to water, and unchangeableness on exposure. Second, its quality of non-combustibility, which is equal to pure slate, and its more permanent cohesiveness under the action of powerful heat. Third, its antiseptic action upon the wood to which it is applied, by reason of the creosote always present in coal tar, which will penetrate the wood more or less, exercising a preserving influence on it.

As a disinfectant, coal tar contains one of the most powerful agents of that class, namely, carbolic acid; and, until that has all evaporated, the air in the vicinity of a roof covered with this material, will be more or less under the influence of its disinfecting and purifying qualities.

CHARLES S. STONE.

Prof. Ridgeway's Testimony.

My name is Thomas S. Ridgeway. I reside in Boston, Mass. I am professor of geology and mining engineering.

Question. If you mix coal tar and finely pulverized slate together, and expose the mixture to the sun and air what will be the result?

Answer. If the slate is argillaceous slate, and intimately mixed in proper proportions, it will produce a composition similar to natural bituminous argillaceous slate.

Q. Will this composition be liable in time to separate or dissolve by the action of air, sun or water?

A. It cannot change chemically after it has arrived at its maximum degree of hardness, but it may wear out in the course of time from the friction of rain water and walking upon the roof.

Q. Please state what you know of this material as a protection against fire.

A. If the materials are properly mixed, it is perfectly fire proof. It is superior to sheet slate in this respect, from the fact that there are interstices between the sheets of slate admitting air to sustain a fire when the rafters and sheeting boards are on fire, whereas the plastic slate adheres to the sheetings and is air tight, and prevents the air from rushing in.

Q. Do you regard plastic slate as a valuable roofing material?

A. Yes sir, very valuable if properly made.

Q. Have you any pecuniary interest in this invention?

A. No.

THOMAS S. RIDGEWAY.

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